As regards to Tiruchirapalli Jn., the same has been taken up for development as a Adarsh Station. A Multi-functional Complex is also planned at Tiruchirapalli Jn.

Development of high yielding seeds of pulses and oilseeds

2582. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Agriculture sector accounted for only 17 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country;

(b) if so, whether there is a need to develop new high yielding seeds, especially of pulses and oilseeds, to increase the share of Agriculture sector in GDP; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to encourage agriculture scientists to develop new/ varieties of seeds of pulses and oilseeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Revised Estimate for 2008-09 released by the Central Statistical Organization, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (1999-2000) prices for Agriculture & allied sectors accounts for 17 percent of total GDP.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. One of the thrust areas of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is refinement of seed-production technologies and production of breeder seed with added emphasis on hybrid cultivars. New initiatives like development of Cytoplasmic Male Sterlity (CMS) based hybrids in pigeonpea, pyramiding of resistance genes for stable and durable resistance etc. and providing need based funds for research have been taken up. Research programmes like conservation of agriculture, precision farming, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) technologies are also under priority research. Scientists are encouraged to receive the training in advanced laboratories.

Railway Committees

2583. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of leading intellectuals have been asked to head Railway Committees;

(b) if so, the details of the Committees including names of the Chairmen and the Members; and

(c) the details of functions, status, remunerations and perquisites of Chairmen and Members of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.V. THOMAS): (a) A Committee on Heritage and Culture headed by Ms Saoli Mitra has been formed.

(b) and (c) The details of the Committee, its composition, Terms of reference (functions), remunerations and other perquisites/status etc., are given in Statement.

Statement

Committee on Heritage and Culture headed by Ms. Saoli Mitra

Composition	Terms of Reference (Functions)	Remuneration	Perquisites
	Main functions of the Committee are		**Travelling facilities & allowances**
Chairperson Ms. Saoli Mitra **Members** i) Shri Bibhash Chakraborty ii) Smt. Arpita Ghosh iii) Shri Ratan Thyiam iv) Dr. G.S. Rautela v) Ustad Rashid Khan vi) Shri Joy Gosvvami vii) Dr. S.S. Biswas viii) Shri Rituparna Ghosh	i) To review the existing cultural activities, organizations and related matters on indian Railways; ii) To review the developments and promote India's rich rail heritage; iii) To give recommendations for setting up of professional institutions Cultural Centres, Film Cities and Studios etc. at locations identified by the Committee through PPP; iv) The Committee will also develop an 'Annual Cultural Events Calendar' for Indian Railways; v) To suggest and provide directions for holding cultural seminars, talk shows, TV programmes and making and showing of documentary films on various aspects of indian Railways and Indian Culture and Heritage; vi) To promote and showcase Indian Railways heritage and culture through exclusive exhibitions; and vii) To promote development of Art Galleries and Handicraft Centers at Railway Stations in major cities and moving libraries on trains.	As per Government Rules on Committees. However, several Members are not receiving any payment and are working on honorary basis.	As per Government Rules on Committees